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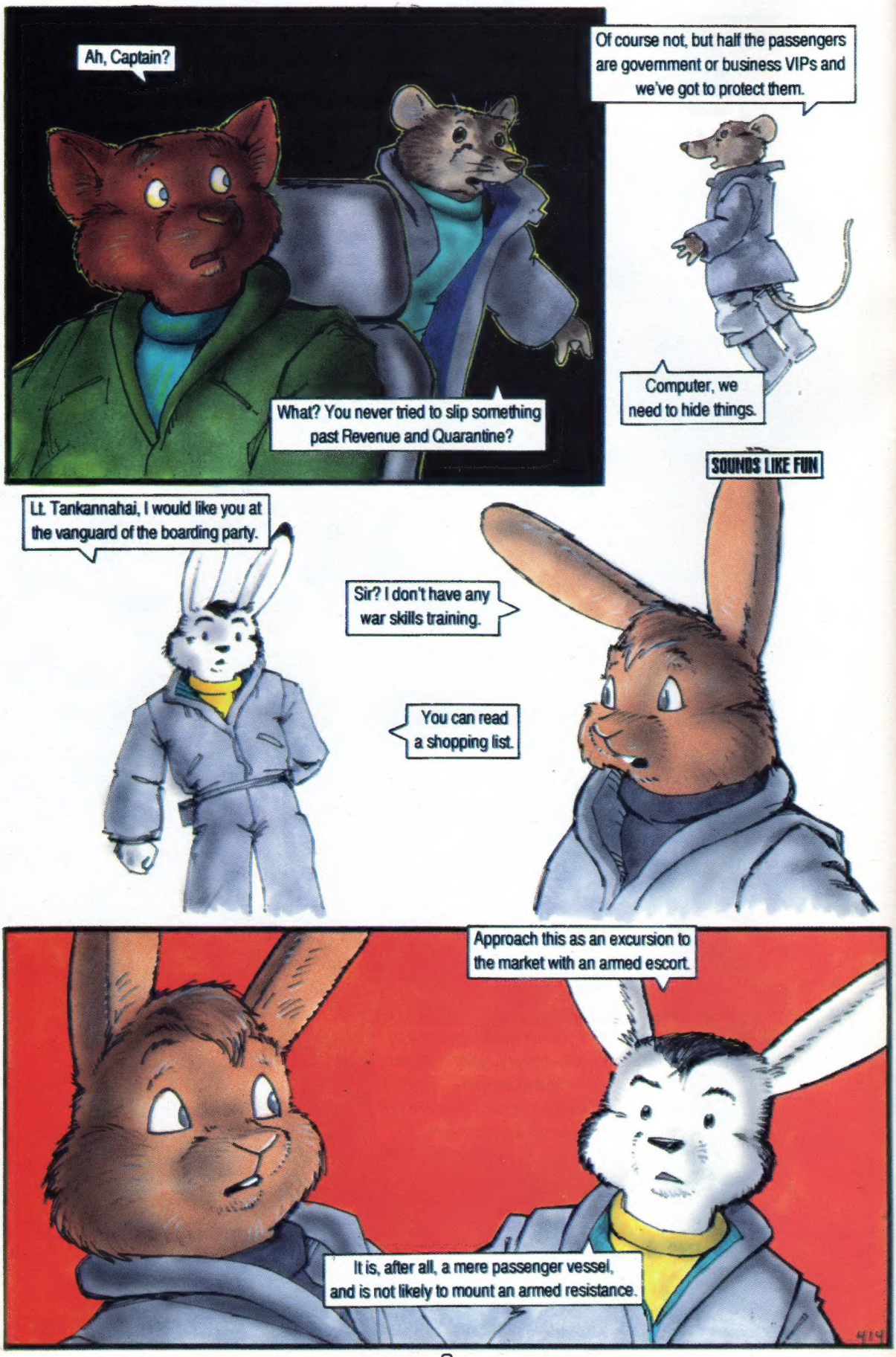
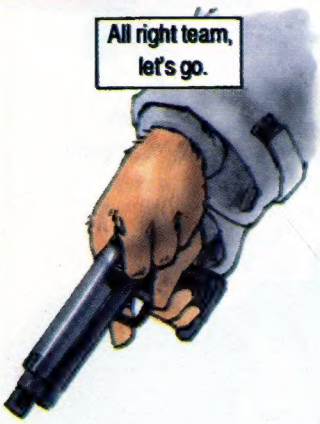
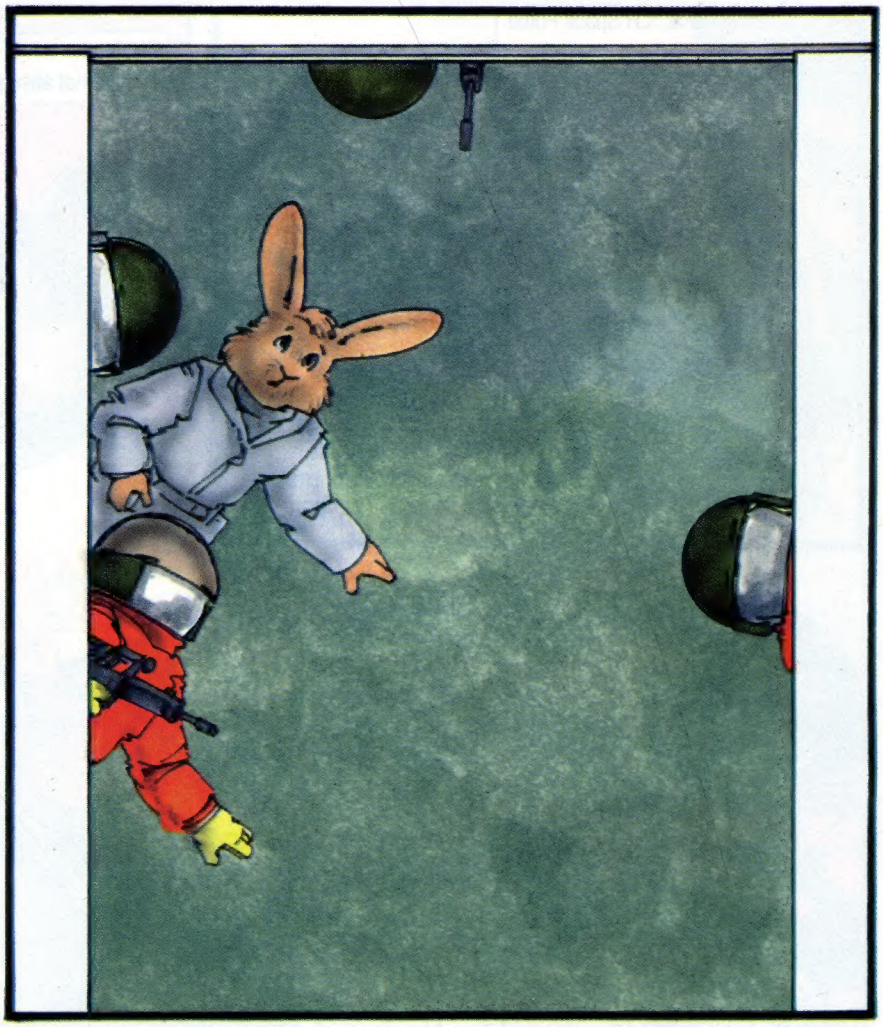
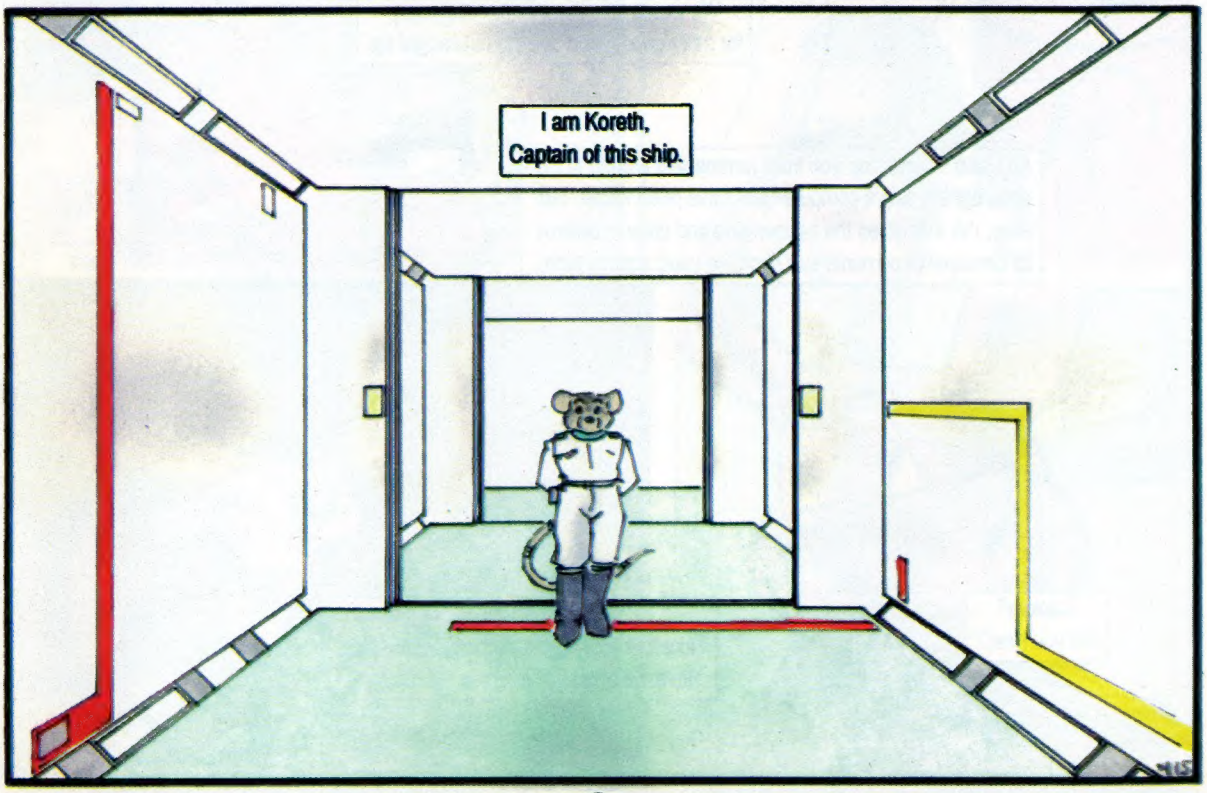
Intermediate Transit System 038. SD 201-01-10
The commercial starship, M.T.Feebles is being intercepted by one of the ILR warships involved in the attack on Annah, Dornthant, back at SD 200-09-20.
Attention the ship, this is the Captain!
We have a hostile vessel some hours out and has signaled its intentions to board us for plunder. It has not identified itself, though appears to be a proper warship, perhaps an ILR unit.
Because there may be a political as well as criminal motive for the act, I would suggest that everyone on board take steps to conceal their identities and possessions. The crew and ship's computer are available to assist.

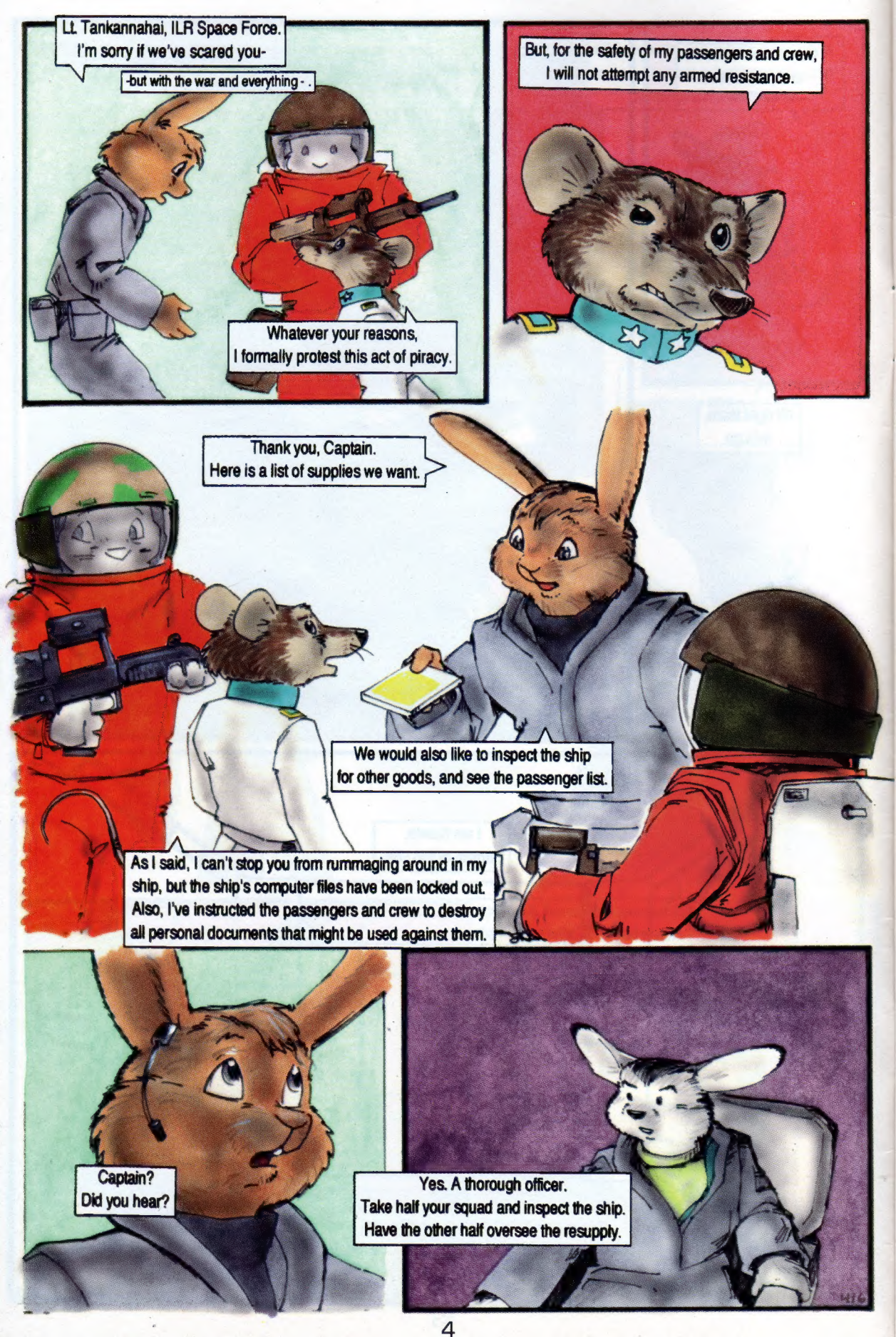

Ah, Captain?
What? You never tried to slip something past Revenue and Quarantine?
Of course not, but half the passengers are government or business VIPs and we've got to protect them.
Computer, we need to hide things.
SOUNDS LIKE FUN
Lt. Tankannahai, I would like you at the vanguard of the boarding party.
Sir? I don't have any war skills training.
You can read a shopping list.
Approach this as an excursion to the market with an armed escort.
It is, after all, a mere passenger vessel, and is not likely to mount an armed resistance.

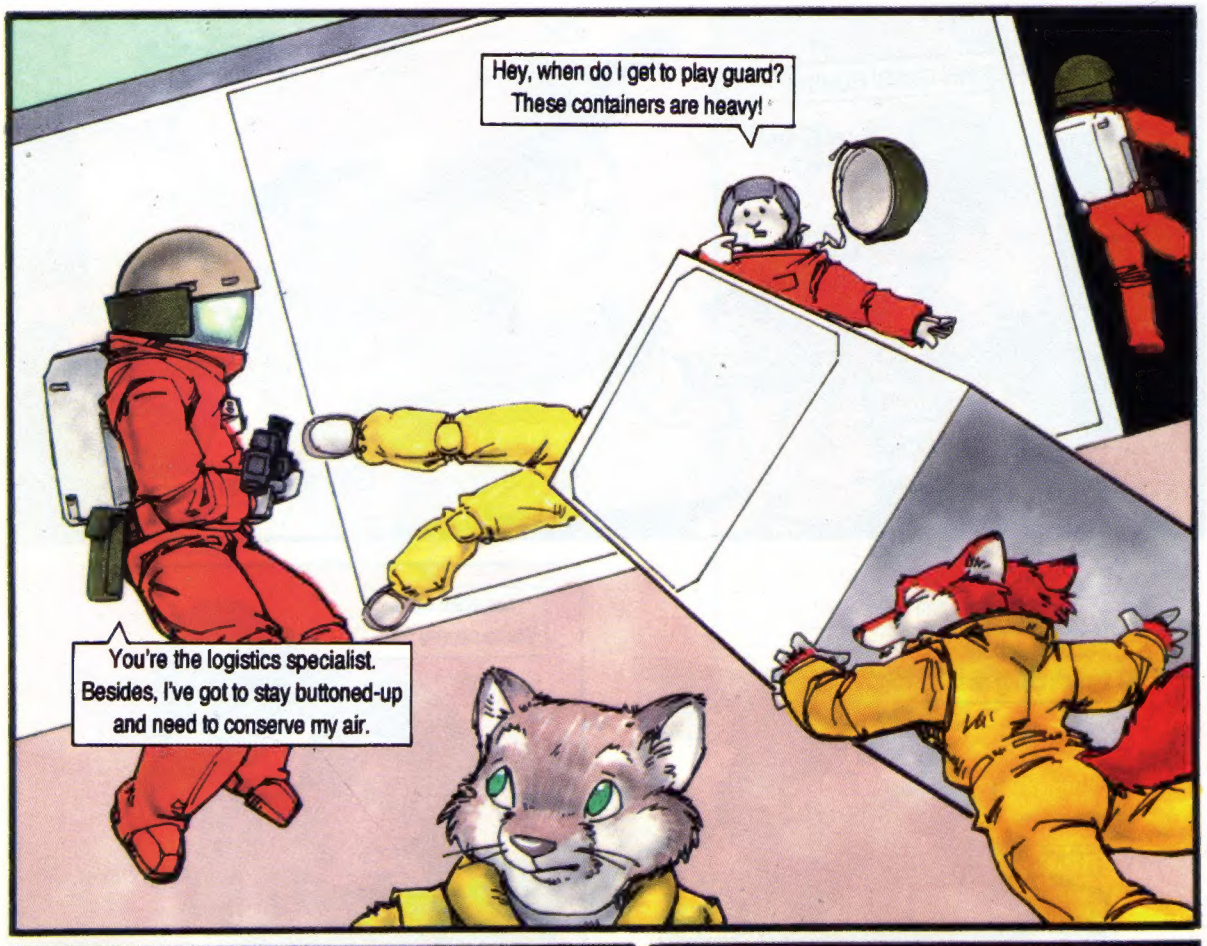
Connection is secure and pressurized.


All right team, let's go.




I am Koreth, Captain of this ship.


Lt. Tankannahai, ILR Space Force. I'm sorry if we've scared you-
-but with the war and everything - .
Whatever your reasons, I formally protest this act of piracy.
But, for the safety of my passengers and crew, I will not attempt any armed resistance.
Thank you, Captain. Here is a list of supplies we want.
We would also like to inspect the ship for other goods, and see the passenger list.
As I said, I can't stop you from rummaging around in my ship, but the ship's computer files have been locked out. Also, I've instructed the passengers and crew to destroy all personal documents that might be used against them.
Captain? Did you hear?
Yes. A thorough officer. Take half your squad and inspect the ship. Have the other half oversee the resupply.


Hey, when do I get to play guard? These containers are heavy!
You're the logistics specialist. Besides, I've got to stay buttoned-up and need to conserve my air.

Yeah, me too. Thinking of which, I'm getting low.

WHA-!?
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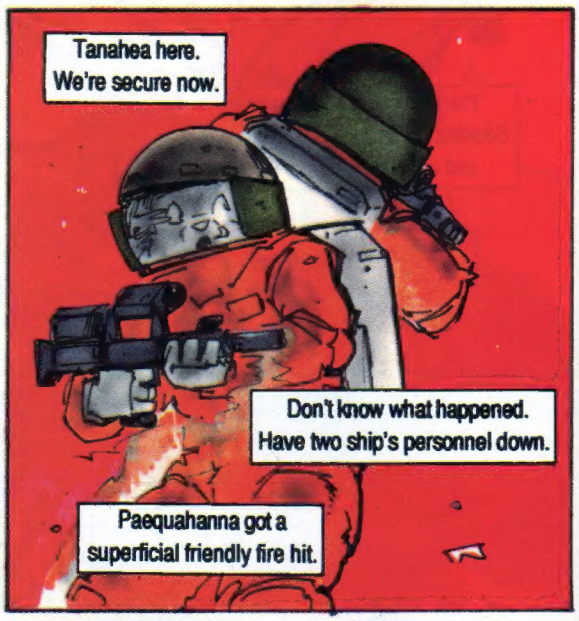
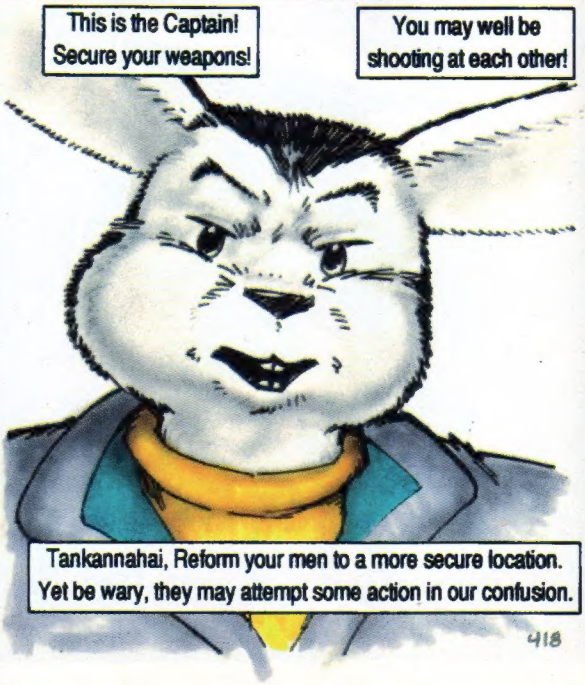
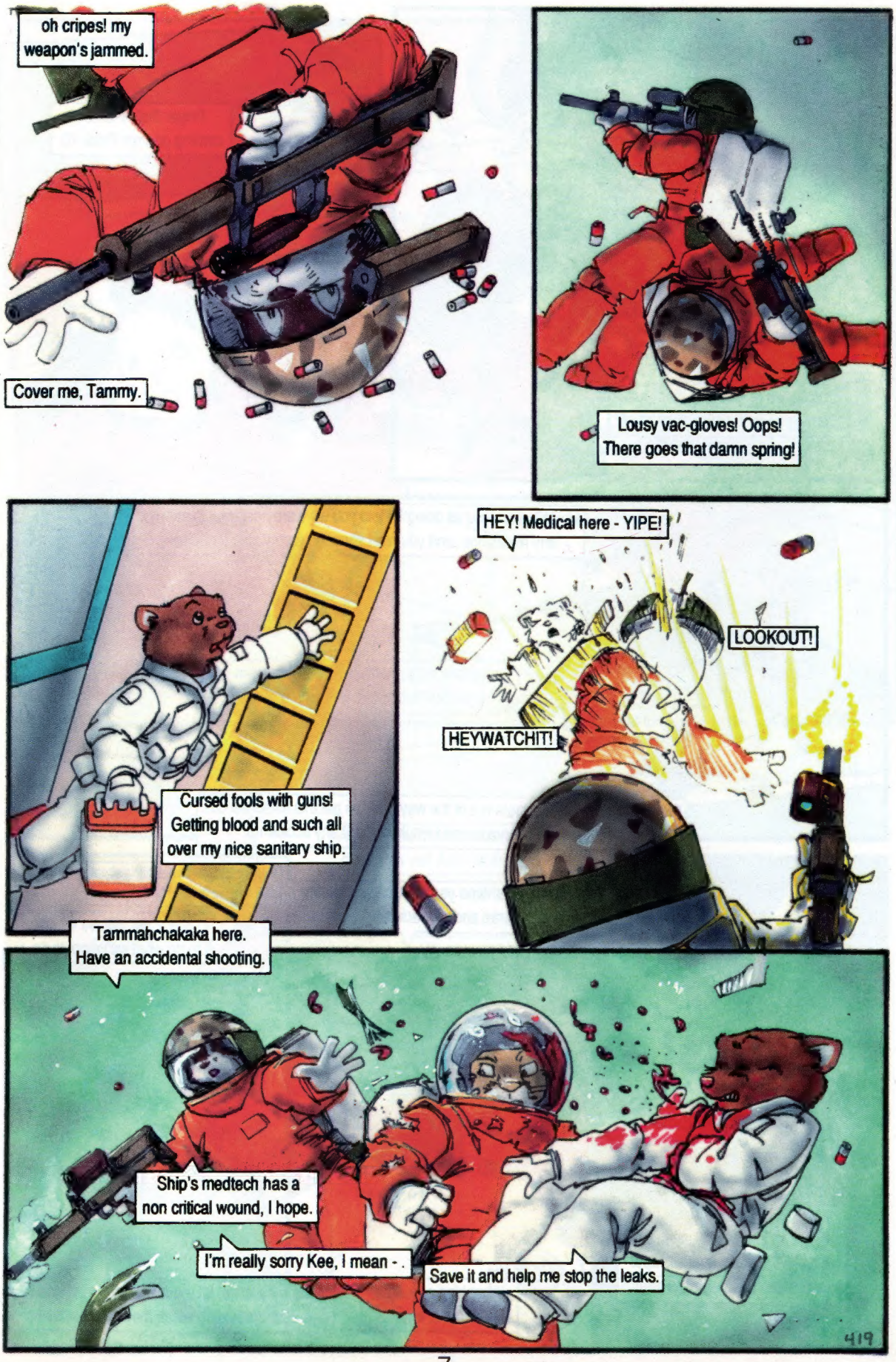
GUNS! GUNS! GUNS!
Look out!
EEEK!
OHSHITOHSHITOHSHIT!

Squads report! What's going on?!
Shooting!
Gunfire!
Several people hit!


Tanahea here. We're secure now.
Don't know what happened. Have two ship's personnel down.
Paequahanna got a superficial friendly fire hit.

Kehawahanah here. Have some passengers waving at us for cease-fire.


This is the Captain! Secure your weapons!
You may well be shooting at each other!
Tankannahai, Reform your men to a more secure location. Yet be wary, they may attempt some action in our confusion.
418


oh cripes! my weapon's jammed.
Cover me, Tammy.
Lousy vac-gloves! Oops! There goes that damn spring!
Cursed fools with guns! Getting blood and such all over my nice sanitary ship.
HEY! Medical here - YIPE!
LOOKOUT!
HEYWATCHIT!
Tammahchakaka here. Have an accidental shooting.
Ship's medtech has a non critical wound, I hope.
I'm really sorry Kee, I mean - .
Save it and help me stop the leaks.
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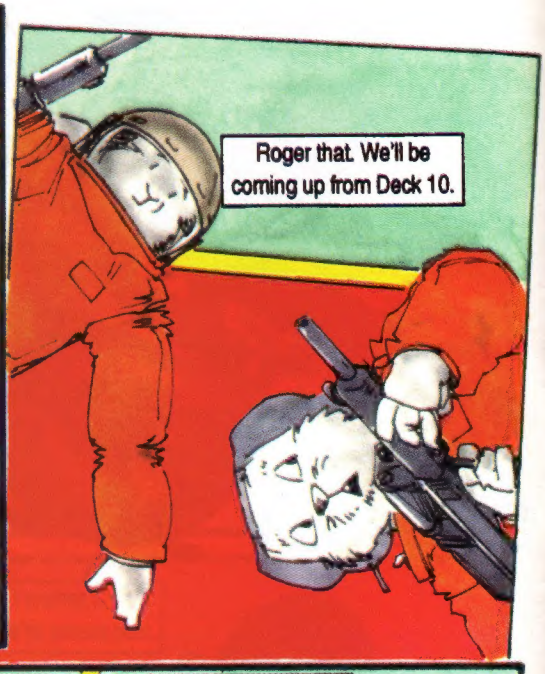
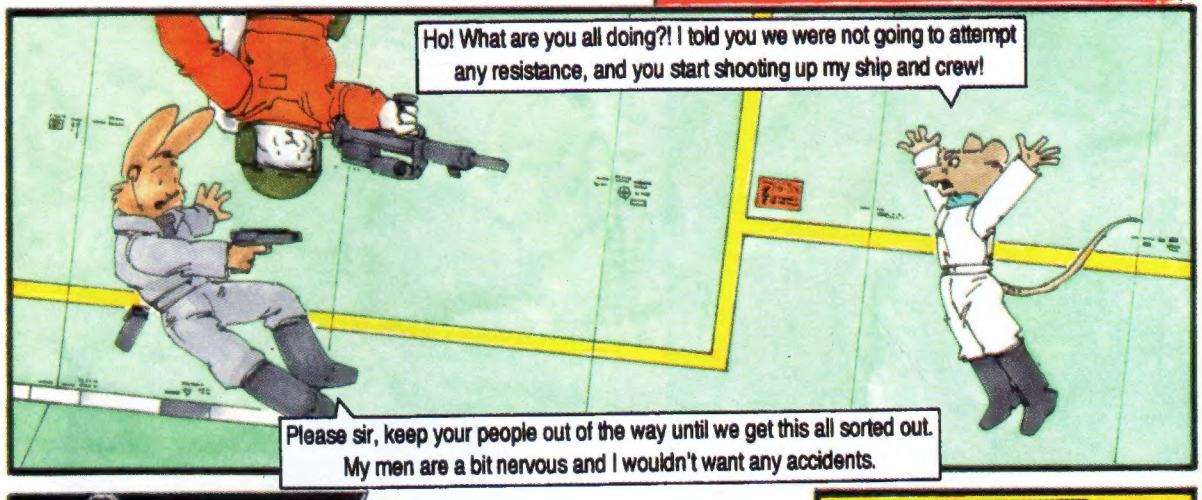
All right, we're safe and clear here. Coming up to the 12 o'clock shaft.


Roger that. We'll be coming up from Deck 10.


Ho! What are you all doing?! I told you we were not going to attempt any resistance, and you start shooting up my ship and crew!
Please sir, keep your people out of the way until we get this all sorted out. My men are a bit nervous and I wouldn't want any accidents.

Careful, Lt. Tankannahai. We will not acknowledge any aspect of these incidents until a proper investigation has been convened.

And in the meantime you'll still be plundering the ship's stores and menacing my people.
What kind of outlaw ship are you, anyway?

Remember, tell him nothing about the current state of belligerency.
Sorry, sir, but we've got to do what we've got to do.
In the meantime, let me secure my men and I'll see about providing some medical assistance.

I hope that helps?

I'm not impressed, lieutenant, as it was your troops that shot them up in the first place.

We'll try not to do that again.

Again? You mean you're not done with us? After all this?

Uh, my captain now insists on a thorough examination of the ship.

For whatever reason?

To see what we can see.

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Ekosiak. SD 201-01-20
Household of Col. Onni Hitzok, his wife, Karema, and his consort, Dea-Htuhok, former EDF Secretary.

A CALL FOR COL. HITZOK.

Can I take it?

Dea? Hi. Sorry to wake you, but we just got some traffic from Central. The ILR struck Domthant just over a month ago. Surface impacts, lost some cities.

What? Wait a minute!

What happened?

Analysis suggests some kind of pre-emptive strike. Not so much to really hurt militarily, but striking at populations to force the EDF into a purely defensive posture.

uumph? Whazz'appen?

The ILR has started a shooting war.

There have not been any reported subsequent attacks and the ILR has not formally declared war, or even acknowledged the action. But Confed is taking this as an act of aggressive war and has called the Homeguard to EDF augmentation.

Citizens.

You have seen the news.

And there is no word as to future ILR assaults.

The attack on the civilian populace of Annah, Dornthant was intentional and unprovoked.

While we have a treaty of mutual obligation with the Confed in times of external aggression, our relationship has recently been called into question.

I will not take you where you do not wish to go. And so we must decide what our role will be.

In consultation with the many leaders within our community, I propose a plebiscite, requiring a super majority, to determine where our loyalties lie.

Good speech, Colonel.

We're behind you.

What do you have to say about ?

How do you see the situation?

Does the Homeguard have any plans?

Colonel, someone from the Governor's office to see you.

oh?

Azooki, Tahn, everyone. I'm surprised to see you all here.

We saw a draft of your speech and decided to get together.

The ILR is a common threat to all of us.

We've got no realistic defenses.

Consolidation is what I've heard.

Do you have any kind of plan?

I heard the EDF has some secret assets in far orbit.

Colonel, we're willing to give you anything you ask.

I didn't agree to that!

So, what exactly are you, talking about?

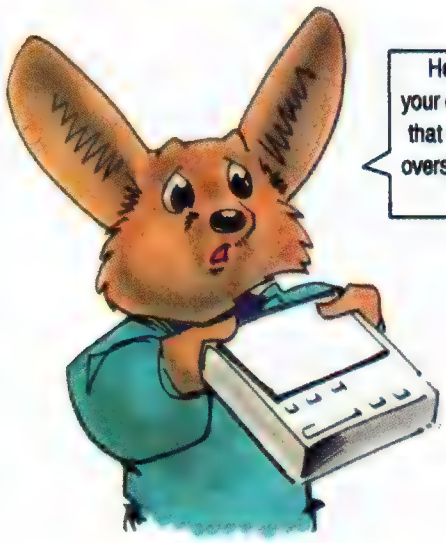
We have discussed it, and we think we can give you the position of system commander-in-chief.

What?

I think we're going too far with this.

This would be solely a military role. It has no domestic political or civil authority.

And there are some purely political carrot-and-stick options to deal with any objections.



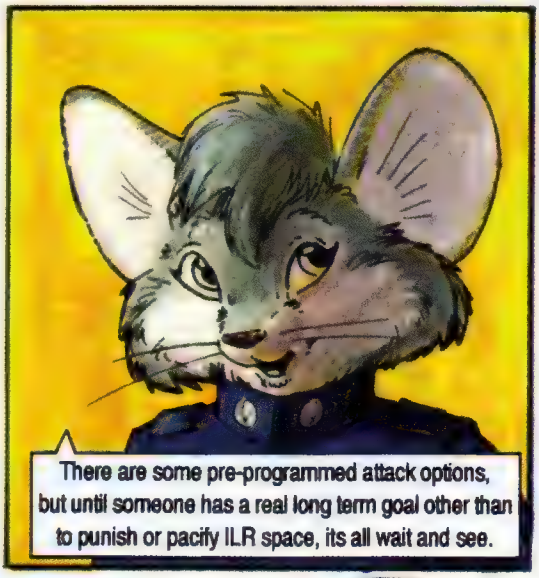
Here is an outline of your operational protocols that will insure complete oversight and independent review.

Looks good, when can I start?

Ish Tako. SD 201-01-21
So, what's the buzz in the ranks, now that you-all may be pulled into a shooting war?
Well, as half the troop has been in a shooting war against terrorists and insurgents, on and off again by the whim of politicians for the past five years, the prospect of an obvious, unified threat has some appeal.
Not that anyone is keen on jumping into the thick of a planet-killing, interstellar war. I personally wouldn't mind if nothing ever came out this way to test our mettle, considering what would be at stake.
And support of EDF operations?
Oh? I was given to understand that the local mission would be to develop a defense in depth.
And the best defense - ?

You'll be given some options for support of a future expeditionary force. There's nothing planned, but EDF Command wants to have assets available if something shapes up.

Are there really no thoughts about any offensive operation against the ILR?



The ILR has all their ships out and probably lurking around waiting to launch strikes against just about anywhere.

Annah, Dorthant. SD 201-01-22
Kanoc and Rojigo Feina, fearing abuse form the military junta, live in the ruins of Annahport under alternate I.D.s.

Hello, hon. Kamatti. A warm day for the heavy work?

Oh, with my good helper, it isn't so bad.

We're both very grateful for your attention, eh Pauli?

Yes, Grandfather.

And thinking of which, I've got an extra handset for young Hon. Pauli for some educational access.

Though I know you're not keen on it, there is more new relocation housing available - .

As you said - though I thank you.

Well, you take care and we'll see you soon.

Have you sanitized the program?

Yes, Grandfather, and I've directed the data link through some anonymous connections. No way to backtrack.

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The first real reconstruction.
I wonder how many years it will take?

The council has agreed to no forced relocations, but at the same time wants to impose new "safety regulations" making it all but impossible to get into most areas.

We can appeal to the works commission, they're the ones who're actually out here and see what's happening.

Yeah, and some independent media types have been sniffing around for some new angle on the situation. Getting coverage can't hurt.

I hope you are happy here, even though it isn't all that conventional.

It's all right. I like the neighbors and the social people are nice. And there aren't so many that my head hurts from them all.

Yes. And by the time there are more people around, you ought to have learned how to better cope with that.

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Ennahn, Annah, Dornthant. SD 201-01-23
Like her husband and grandson, Eda Kamatti-Felna lives under an assumed identity, not knowing the fate of her family.

Hon. Daiuda, I trust you have integrated yourself well enough into our facility?

Thank you, Hon. Tawai. You and your colleagues have been most generous and hospitable, considering the current situation.

Yes. Little good news comes out of the stricken areas.

Still no word on any surviving family?

No. And I don't expect any.

I'm sorry if-- .

Oh no. It's something I've come to accept.

A CALL, HON. DAIUDA.

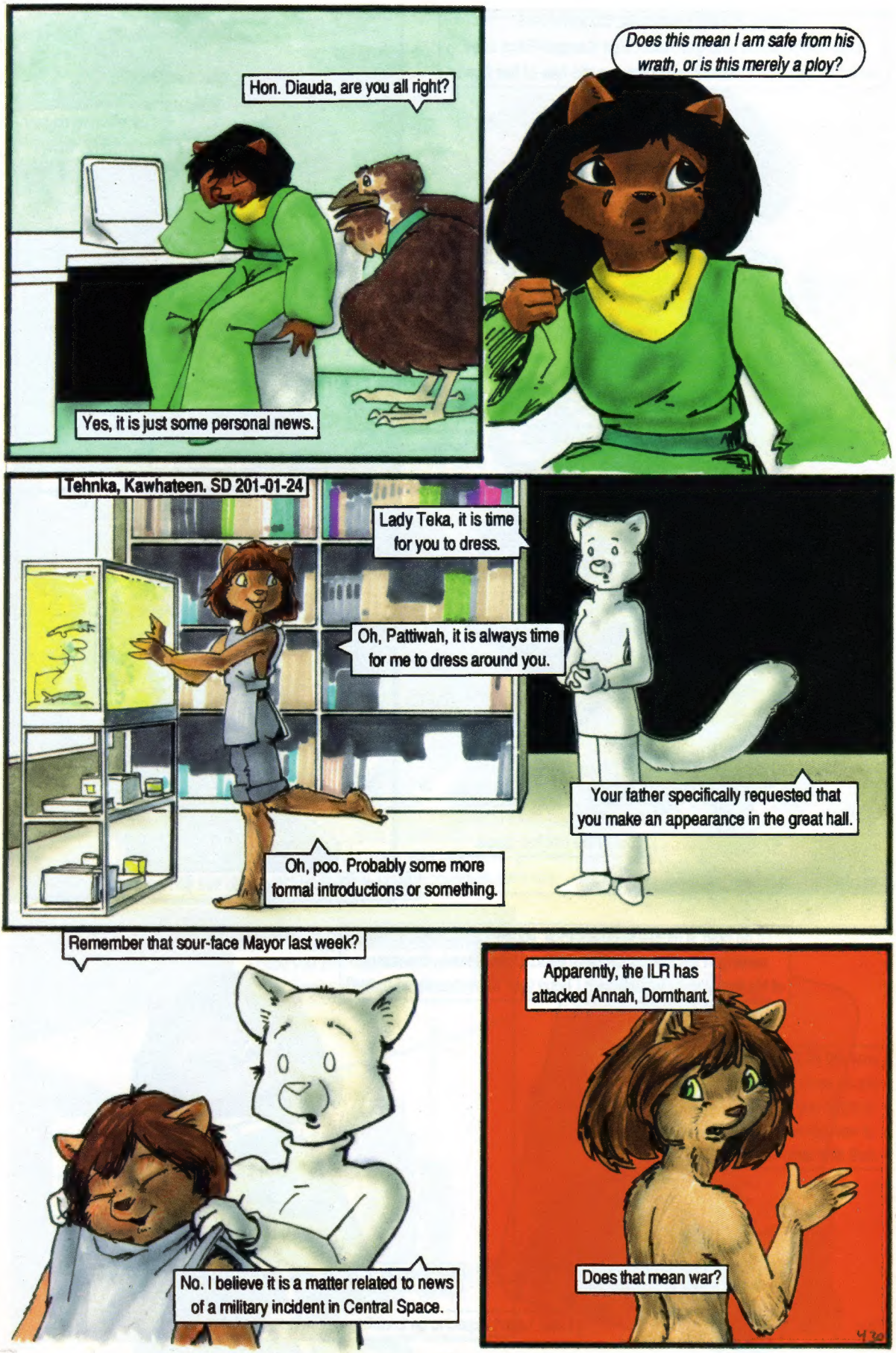
Ah. Hon. *Daiuda* , I'm glad to see you are well.

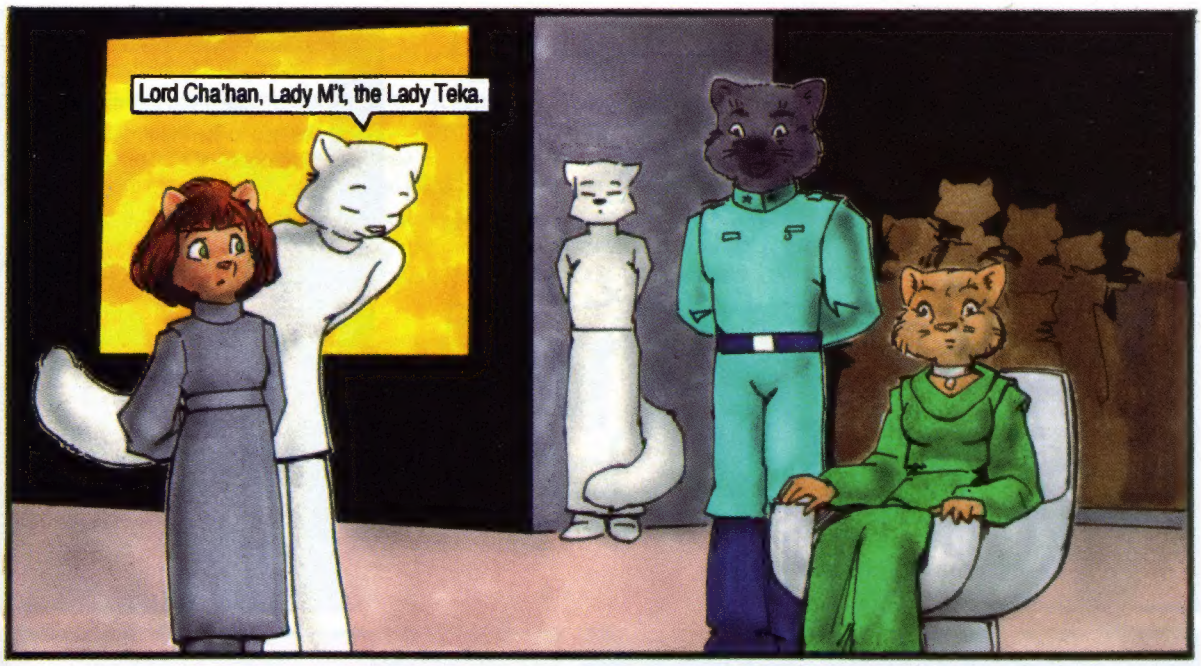
To be brief, a mutual acquaintance, young Tasak Felna ,is well, serving in the Annahport relief effort. Unfortunately, the status of his family remains unknown.I hope your family has fared better?

No. They're all gone.

I see. I don't expect to be troubling you further, good day.

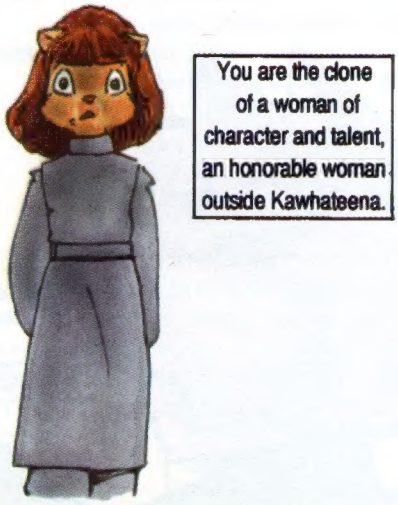
429


Hon. Diauda, are you all right?
Yes, it is just some personal news.
Does this mean I am safe from his wrath, or is this merely a ploy?
Tehnka, Kawhateen. SD 201-01-24
Lady Teka, it is time for you to dress.
Oh, Pattiwah, it is always time for me to dress around you.
Your father specifically requested that you make an appearance in the great hall.
Oh, poo. Probably some more formal introductions or something.
Remember that sour-face Mayor last week?
No. I believe it is a matter related to news of a military incident in Central Space.
Apparently, the ILR has attacked Annah, Dornthant.
Does that mean war?


Lord Cha'han, Lady M't, the Lady Teka.

Daughter, there is a war in space. We of the house Ardehad have obligations to the Greater Kawhateenian system which will mean great personal sacrifice.
Because you have been here as heir to Chan'tai hall, we must clarify the issue of bloodline.

Though borne by the Lady M't, your mother and my wife, you are not of her flesh, or of mine.


You are the clone of a woman of character and talent, an honorable woman outside Kawhateena.

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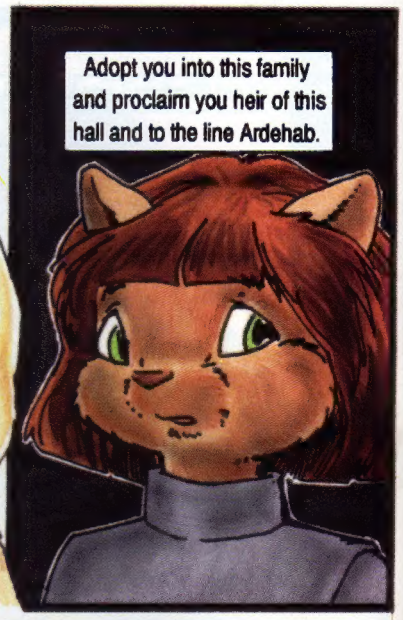
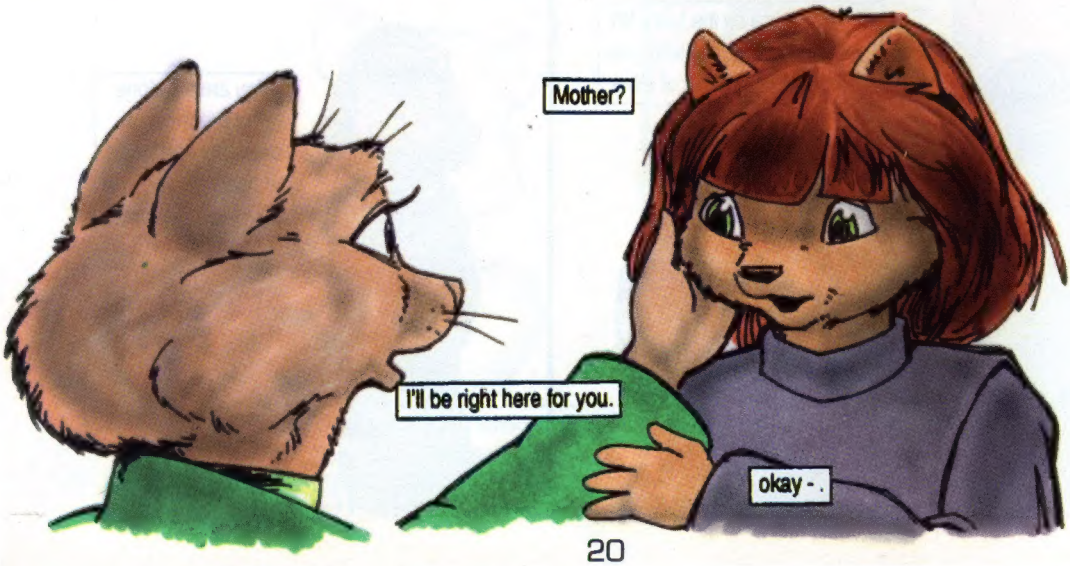
Because of this, there are those who would challenge your right as heir.
So I find it abruptly necessary to formally -

And in the presence of these witnesses, the Family Ardehab -


Adopt you into this family and proclaim you heir of this hall and to the line Ardehab.

I'm sorry, dear, but the issue came up suddenly with the news of war.
Are you all right?
I guess - .

Good girl. Now let's do the protocol thing and later give this a good talking over.


Mother?
I'll be right here for you.
okay - .

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